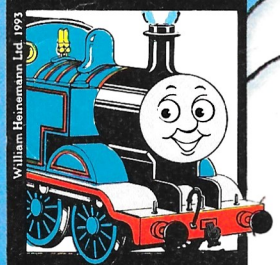
A THOMAS DOORHANGER FOR YOU!

MARVEL®



3rd Dec. 93
No 160 65p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

What can the Fat Controller see today?

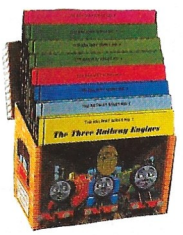
48
9 770954 939053

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Percy is the small Saddle Tank Engine. He is the junior member of the Fat Controller's team but he is given some very hard jobs to do. Sometimes, Percy has some very unusual adventures on the Fat Controller's Railway. In our first story, he has made an important discovery for the Fat Controller! In our second story, Thomas has also seen something on the line! Peep! Peep!

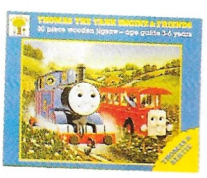
REED BOOKS COMPETITION!

Turn to page 7 for your chance to win some fantastic picture books! Our fourth competition will feature **Thomas's Carousel Book** and the **Thomas Gift Box** which will be available in most book shops for Christmas!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

In our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, you may be the lucky winner of a wooden **Thomas Jigsaw Puzzle**, which we will be featuring in a special competition, courtesy of *Michael Stanfield Ltd.* We will also be offering **25 Thomas Calendars** from *Judges Postcards Ltd*! Don't miss it!



How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

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Age .....

Postcode .....

THOMAS TOKEN

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS TM

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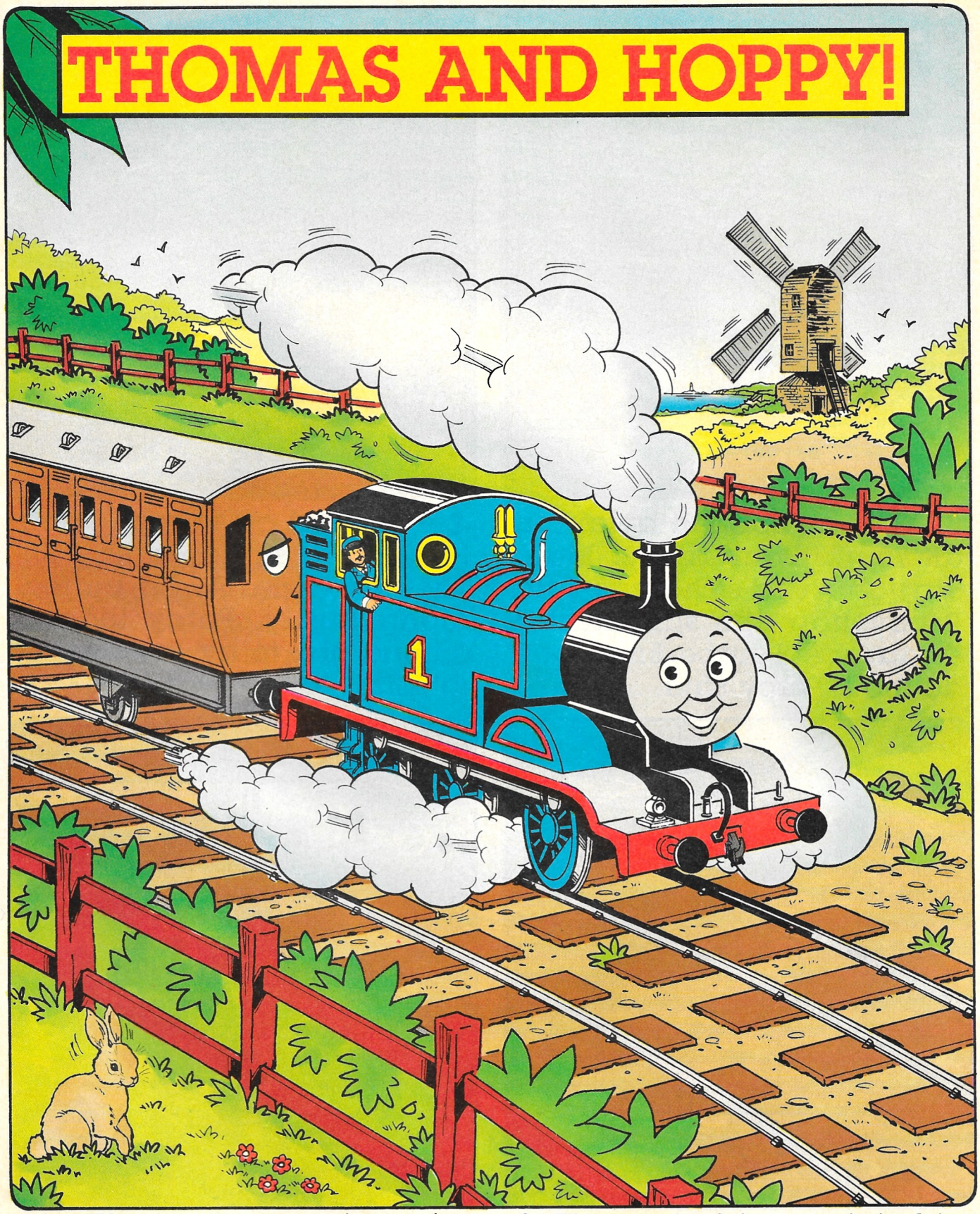
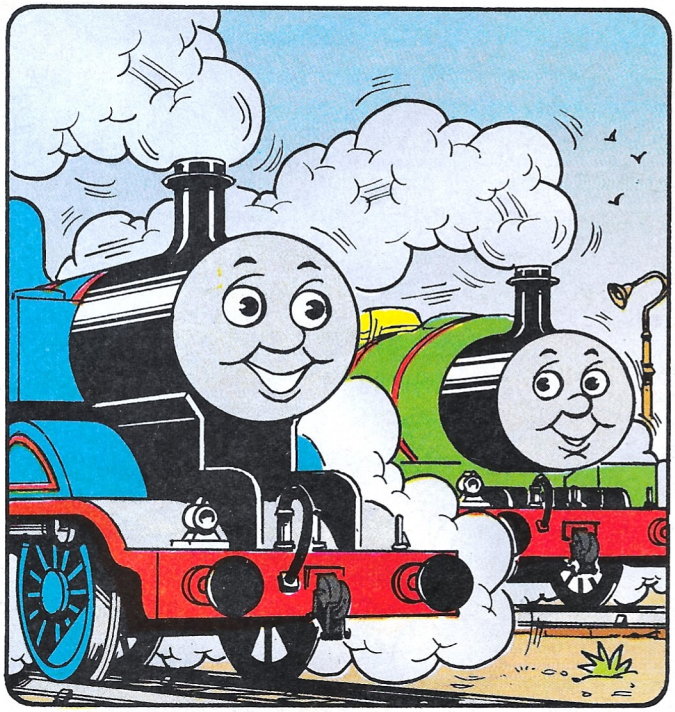
THOMAS AND HOPPY!

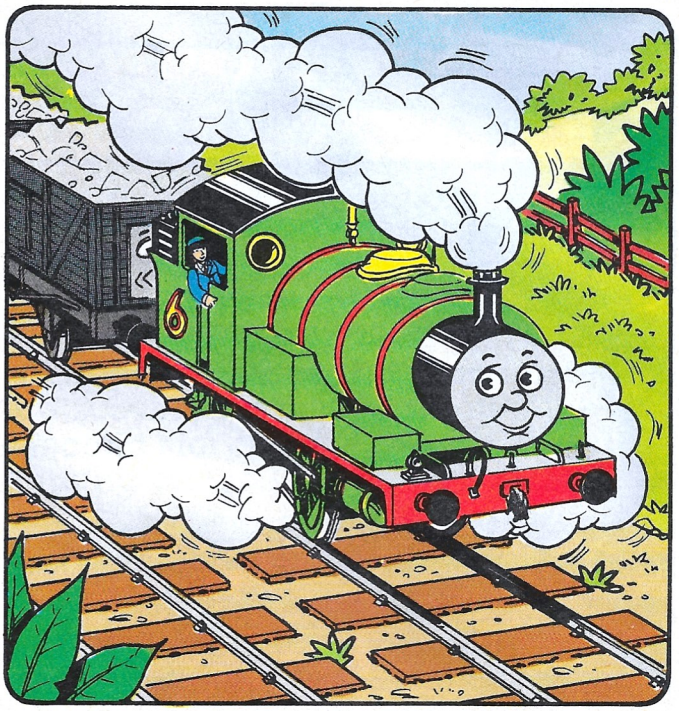


1. Thomas was steaming cheerily along his branch line, one fine morning, when he noticed a furry little animal with long ears, hopping about in a field.

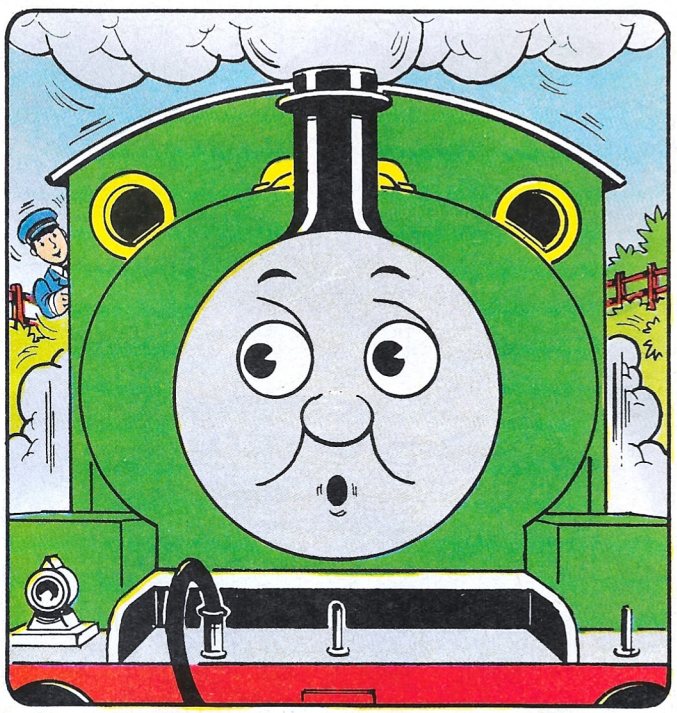
2. Thomas's driver pointed to it. "Lots of rabbits live in the countryside!" he called. Thomas was very surprised as the rabbit stood up on its hind legs.



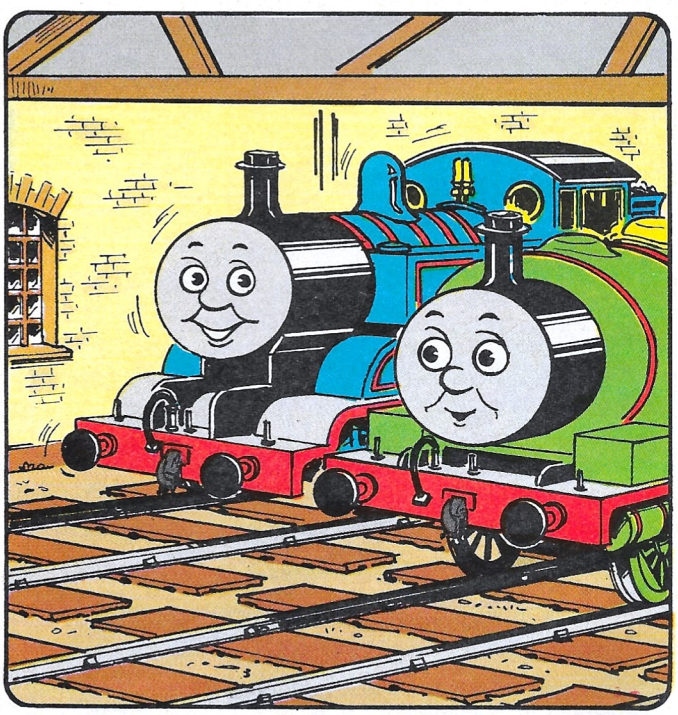
3. Then it hopped away on all fours. Back at the Main Station Yard, Thomas told Percy how the rabbit had stood up. "I hope I see one do that!" Percy said.



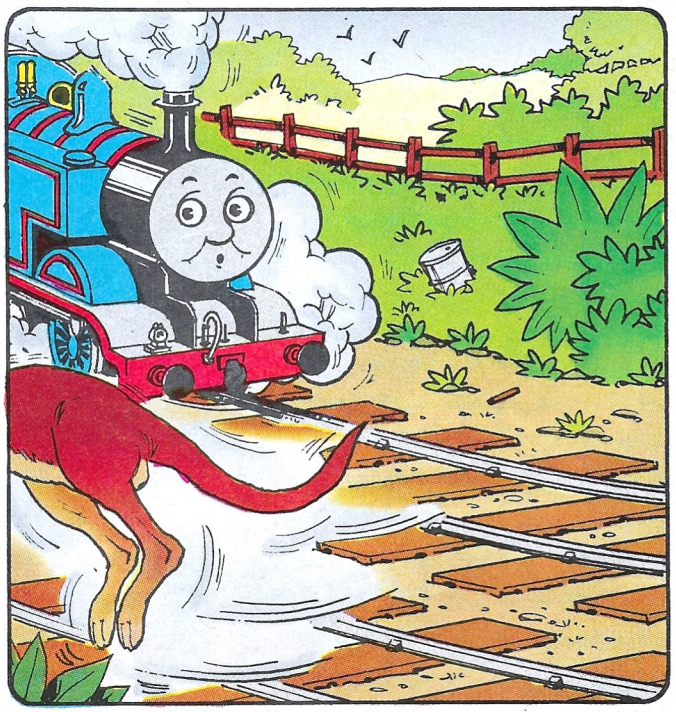
4. Percy set off to take some trucks to a station siding on Thomas's line. As he puffed along busily, Percy looked around him to try and spot a rabbit.



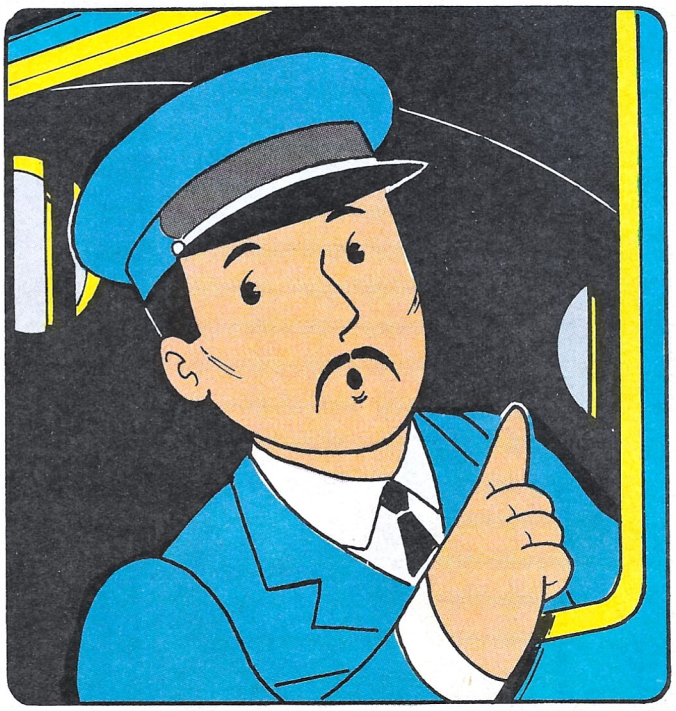
5. "Smoke and fire!" he gasped, suddenly. "Look! There's a giant rabbit!" The driver laughed. "I can't see it, Percy," he said. "Are you sure you did?"



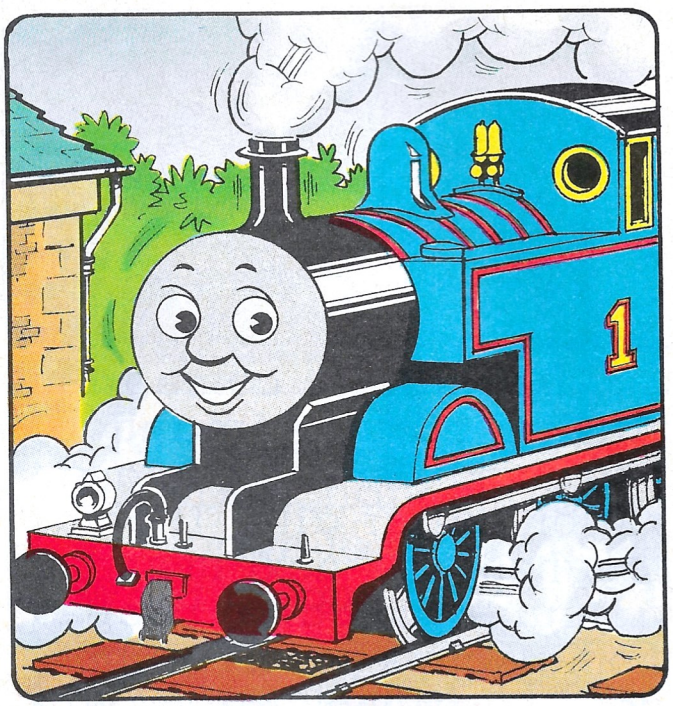
6. Percy could hardly wait to tell Thomas . "I saw a rabbit as big as my driver!" he said in the engine shed, that evening. Thomas just chuckled.



7. Next day, as he pulled the post train, Thomas saw a big, strange animal standing by the line. With one huge hop, it sprang right across the track.

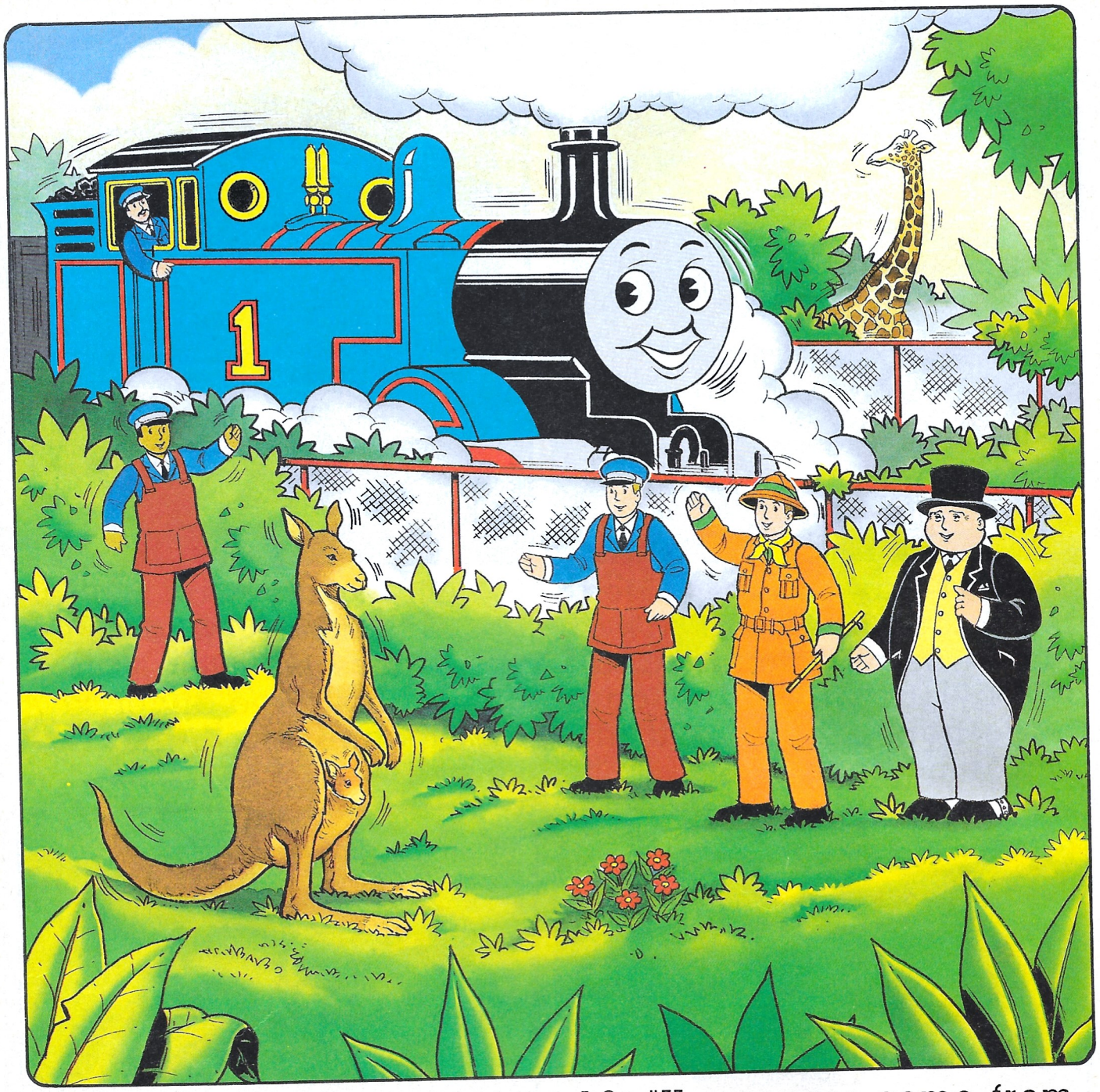


8. "Oh, Percy was right!" gasped Thomas, who could not believe his eyes. "It is a giant rabbit!" The driver saw the creature, too. "Amazing!" he said.



9. "The Fat Controller will want to hear about this!" added the driver. After Thomas had delivered all the post, he raced back to the Main Station.

10. "I've just seen a giant rabbit!" he told Percy. "I'm sorry I didn't believe you!" The Fat Controller rang the Island of Sodor Wildlife park.



11. The manager said that a kangaroo had escaped. Thomas fetched the manager and took him to the spot where he had seen the big hopping animal. As Thomas pulled up, the manager called Hoppy the kangaroo until he appeared. The kangaroo was very tame and Thomas safely returned him to the park in a truck.

12. "Kangaroos come from Australia!", the manager explained. "So it's not a giant rabbit, after all!", Thomas laughed. The next moment, a young kangaroo peeped from Hoppy's pouch. "Rabbits don't carry their babies like that!", laughed Thomas. "Wait 'till I tell Percy! He'll be hopping mad he missed Baby Hoppy!"

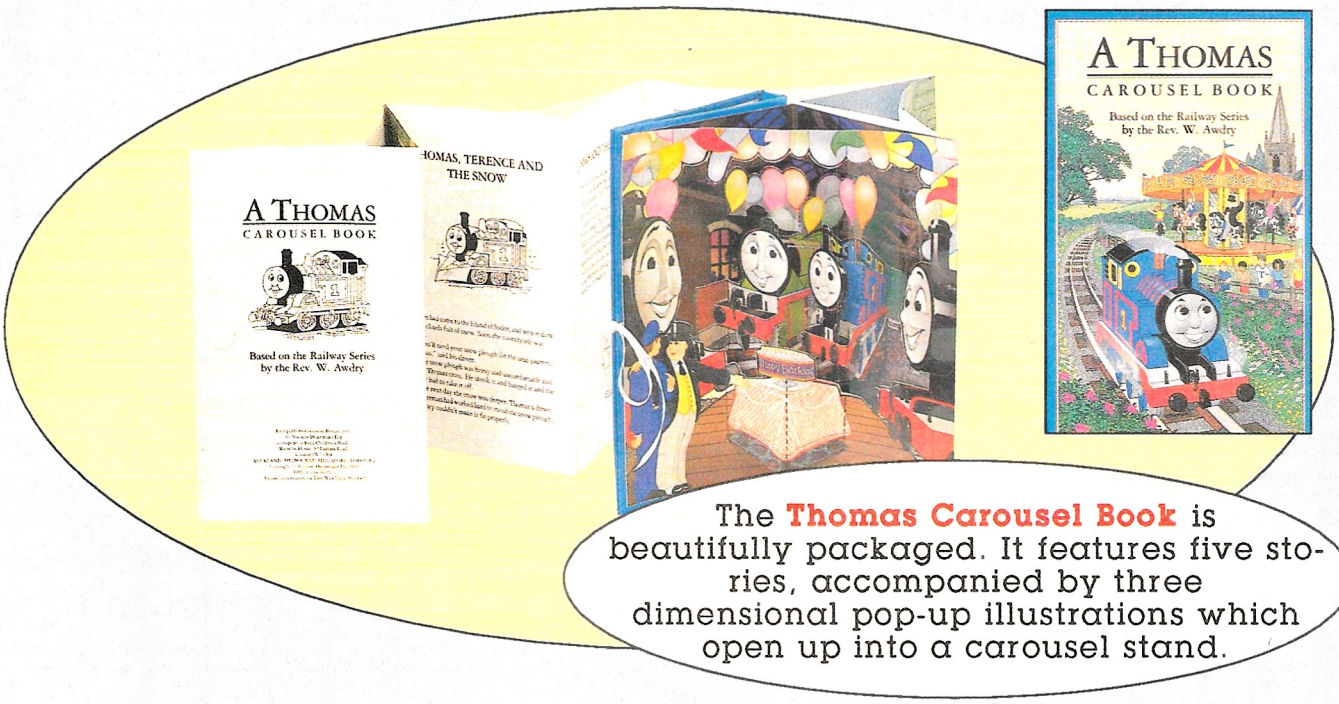
THE END

In our next issue: Iced up!

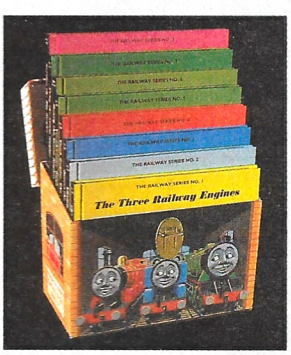
COMPETITION!

Welcome to our fourth Reed Books Competition. We are featuring two brand new books specially for Christmas!

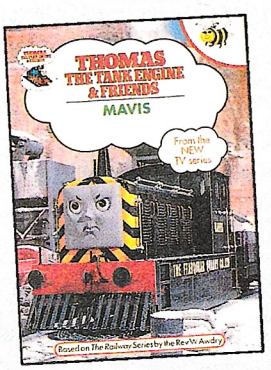
3x1st prize winners receive a Thomas Carousel Book!



The **Thomas Carousel Book** is beautifully packaged. It features five stories, accompanied by three dimensional pop-up illustrations which open up into a carousel stand.



4: 2nd prize winners will receive a copy of the new **Thomas Gift Box.** This beautifully designed carrying case contains the classic Railway Series Books 1-8 with newly originated artwork!



10x 3rd prize winners will each receive a copy of a **Thomas BuzzBook!**

How to enter:

For your chance to win one of these books, all you have to do is answer the following question;

What colour is Gordon the Express Engine?

Send your answers on a postcard along with your name and address to **Thomas/Reed Books Christmas Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London. WC2 3DX.**

Closing date: 12th December 1993!

This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd and/or Reed Books. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

EDWARD AND THE R

One afternoon, Edward was busy pulling a passenger train along his branch line.

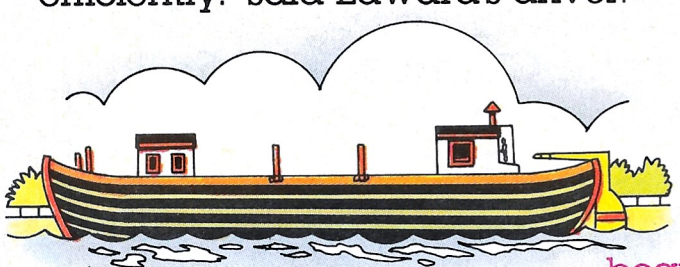
As he steamed past a canal near the track, he saw a long, brightly painted boat packed with people.

Called the 'River Rose', the colourful narrowboat was being towed by a big, strong horse which walked along the towpath beside the water. The horse was Edward's friend.

"There's Sam!" Edward called to his driver. Edward slowed down as he went by, so his smoke and steam didn't startle the horse. "Sam enjoys pulling passengers, just like I do!" Edward thought.

Next morning, Edward was taken out of service while he went to the Works for a check up.

"The Fat Controller likes to make sure all his engines are running efficiently!" said Edward's driver.



boat

Engineers oiled Edward's wheels, checked his brakes and replaced one or two parts that were getting worn.
Then Edward puffed proudly out of the Maintenance Shed, feeling like a brand new engine.

"I'm all ready for my next job, Sir!" he told the Fat Controller.

"Percy has taken your passenger train today, Edward," he replied,"but I have a special task for you."
Edward was sent to a station to collect some schoolchildren and their teacher. He was to take them to the canal for a ride on the "River Rose".

When Edward arrived at the canal station, the narrowboat skipper was on the platform to meet them.

"I've some bad news," he told the teacher. "Sam's just lost a shoe. I have to take him to the blacksmith's to be fitted with a new one. He won't be back in time to pull the schoolchildren on the canal." Edward and his driver overheard. "The children will be disappointed," said Edward sadly.

But his driver had an idea! He

IVER ROSE!

explained it to the skipper and the teacher and then telephoned the Fat Controller from the Stationmaster's office. Soon everything was arranged. Edward could hardly wait.

When his carriage was empty, it was uncoupled and left in a siding.

Then Edward steamed a short way along the track and stopped by the canal where the 'River Rose' was moored.

By now, the schoolchildren and their teacher were waiting on board for him.

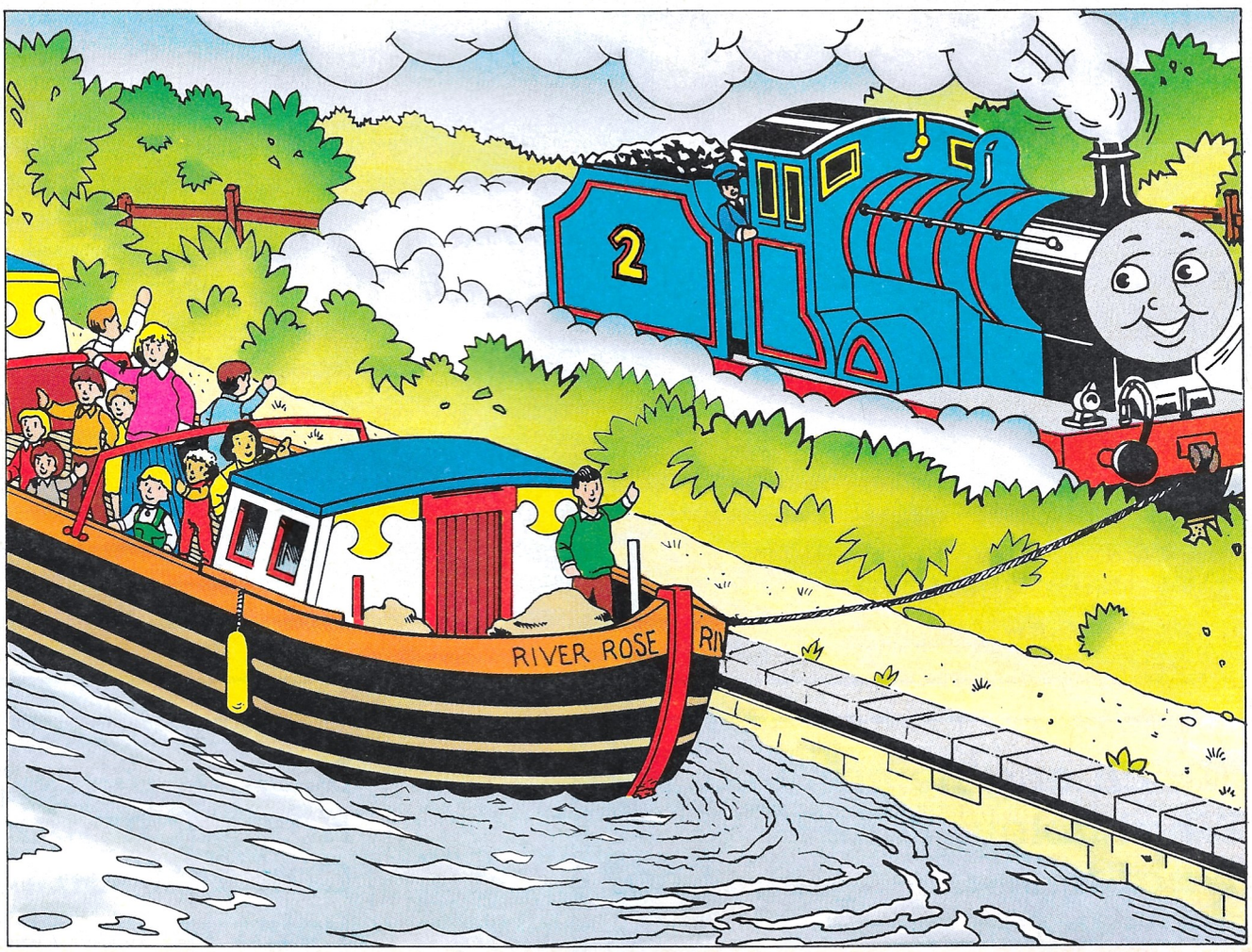
The skipper threw Sam's tow-line to Edward's driver, who tied it to the engine's coupling.

Then, very slowly and carefully, Edward rolled forwards, pulling the 'River Rose' smoothly along the canal.

The children thought it was very exciting to be towed by an engine. Edward really enjoyed himself, too.

"Fancy a steam-engine pulling a boat, instead of carriages or trucks!" he chuckled.

THE END.



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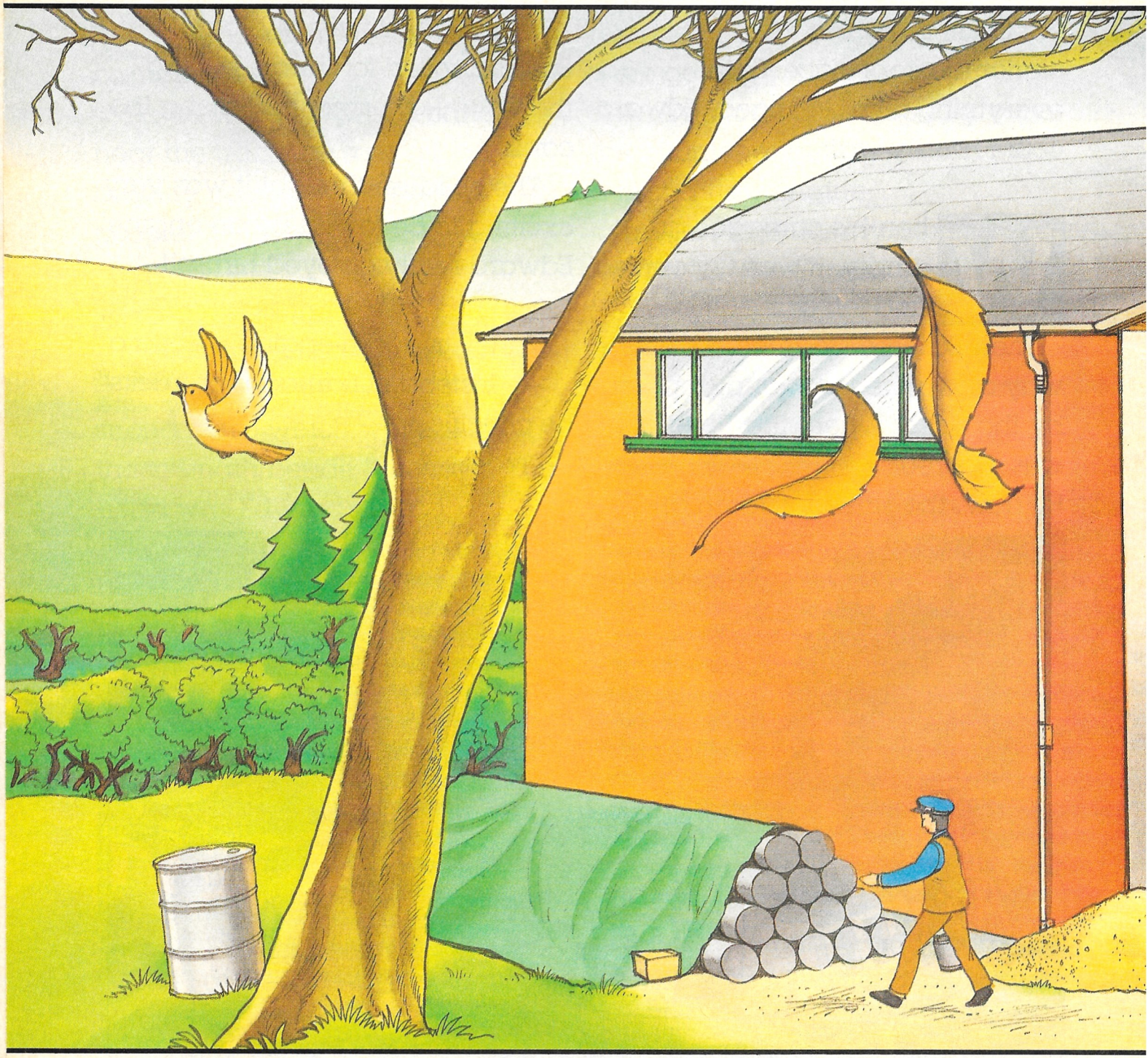

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What type of engine is he?
Point to the bird!

Look at the mainte
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Can you see the st
Point to the falling

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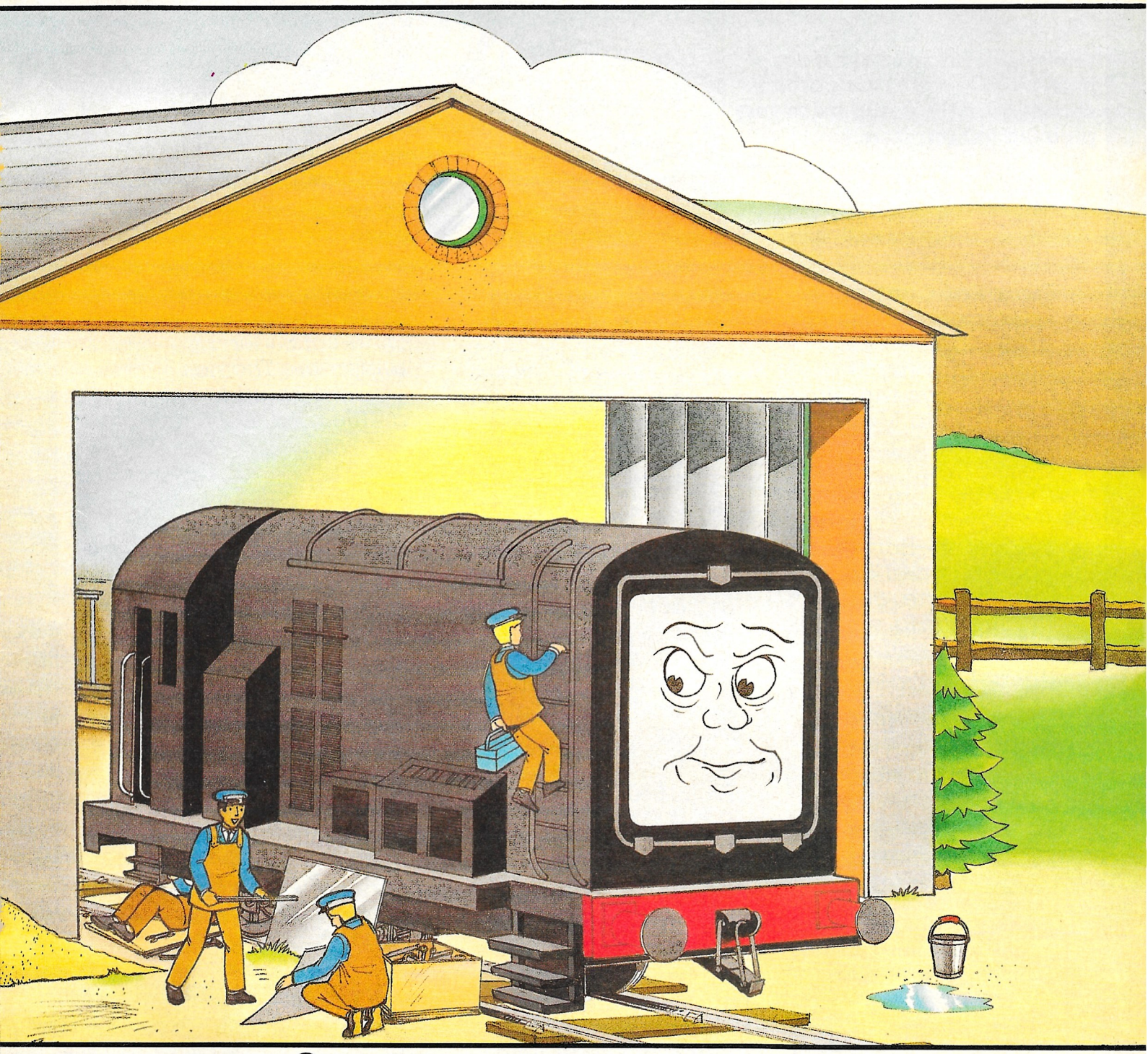

ance shed!
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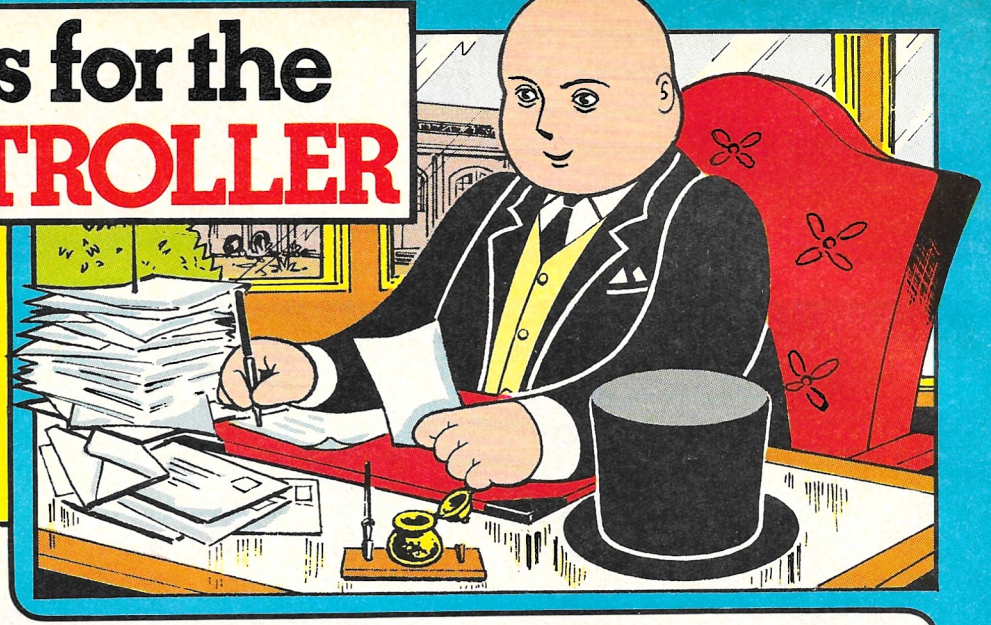
eaves!

Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all around the room!

In our next issue: Christmas mail!

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I like steam trains and Thomas so much that my daddy says that we might go to Mallaig, in Scotland, by steam train!

Love from **George Raymond** aged 2.

I sincerely hope that you do travel on the Mallaig line. Some of the highland views are very scenic indeed. If you are very lucky, you may be able to catch the mainland ferry to the Scottish Islands!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

HAPPY READER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I'm feeling very sad because I've got chicken pox and I can't go out. Mum keeps reading me Thomas to cheer me up. My favourite engine is Henry.

Love **Robert,** aged 3.

I'm very pleased to hear that you are feeling better! All of my engines wish you a speedy recovery and we are all pleased that you enjoy reading our stories!

MINIATURE RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
Yesterday, my mum took me to see a Miniature Railway in a park near my house. I was very happy to meet some of my friends from the Island of Sodor! As a special treat, the engine driver let me have a special ride with Thomas!

Love from **Jamie Pemberton,** aged 2.

We have built some splendid Miniature Railways on the Island of Sodor. I remember Thomas was delighted to see a little model of himself working by the seaside.

BIRTHDAYS!

Sean Patrick Gaynor, Nicholas Cameron, Benjamin Hawling, Alexander Ingarfield, Nicholas John Bailey, Jack Seward, Andrew James Lee Fittall, Luke Wakefield, Luke Ellis, Kerry Louise Whitehead and Carla Michael Whitehead.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

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Allow 28 days for delivery. Offer closes 10th December 1993. T2

COLOURING TIME!

**Thomas and Percy have found the kangaroo,
You can colour Thomas in red, yellow and blue!**

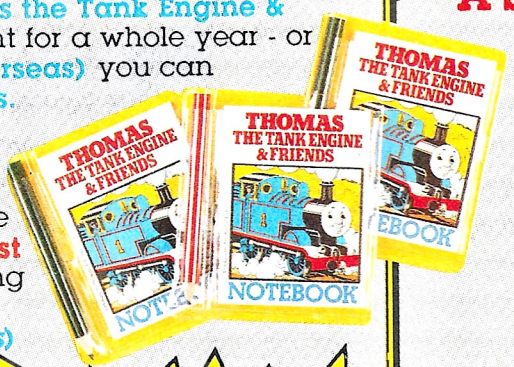
JOIN THE DOTS!

Oh dear....What's happened here? Join the dots and all will be clear!

Subscribe!

Subscribe to Thomas's very own magazine and receive a splendid diecast model of Thomas from ERTL

For just £18.00 (35.00 overseas), your child will be sent Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends every fortnight for a whole year - or for £10.00 (£18.00 overseas) you can subscribe for 6 months. Additionally, if you subscribe for a whole year (UK subscribers only) you will receive a **FREE Thomas diecast model** plus a charming notebook and pencil *(see opposite pictures)* and personalised Fat Controller's Card enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to Fat Controller's Card holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!



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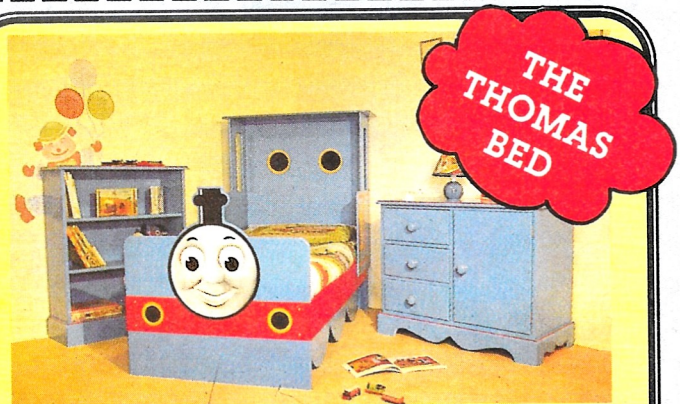

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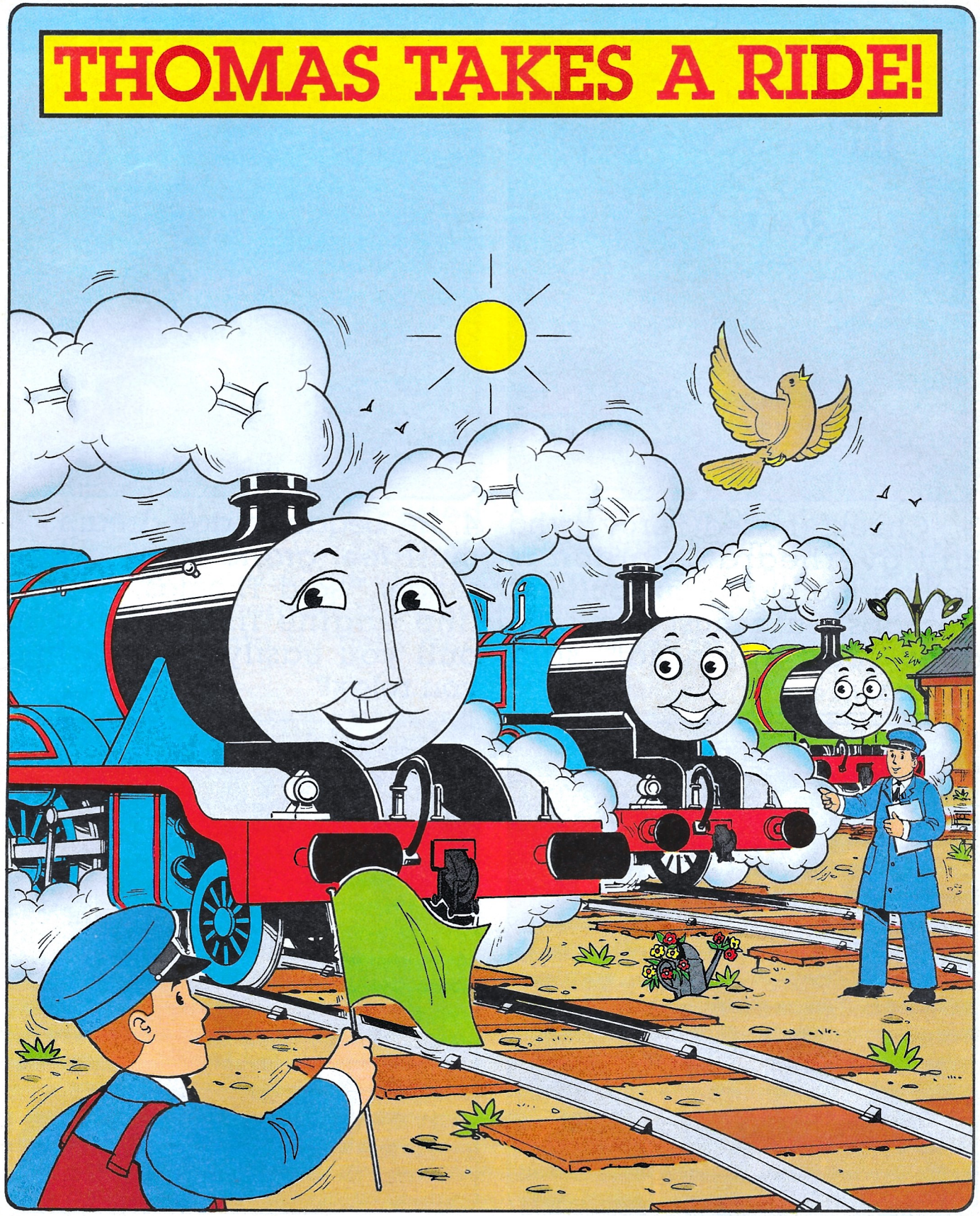
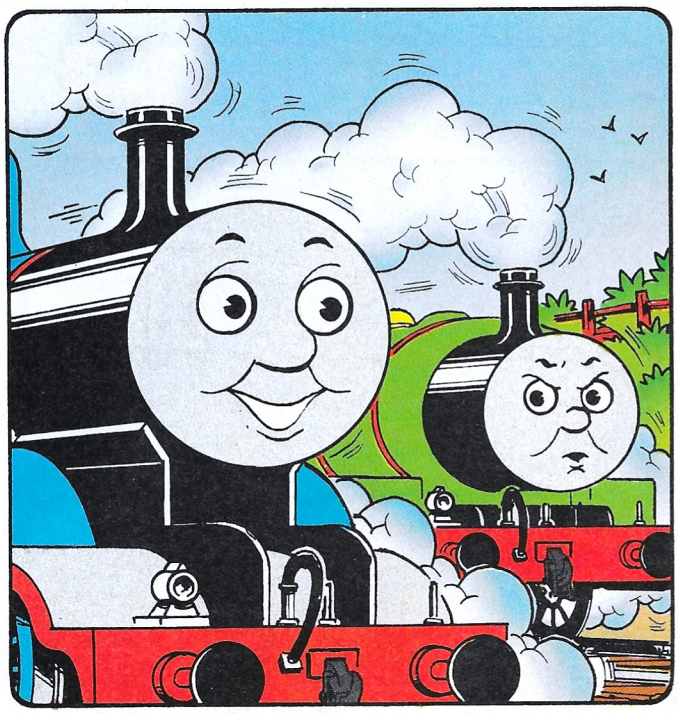
THOMAS TAKES A RIDE!

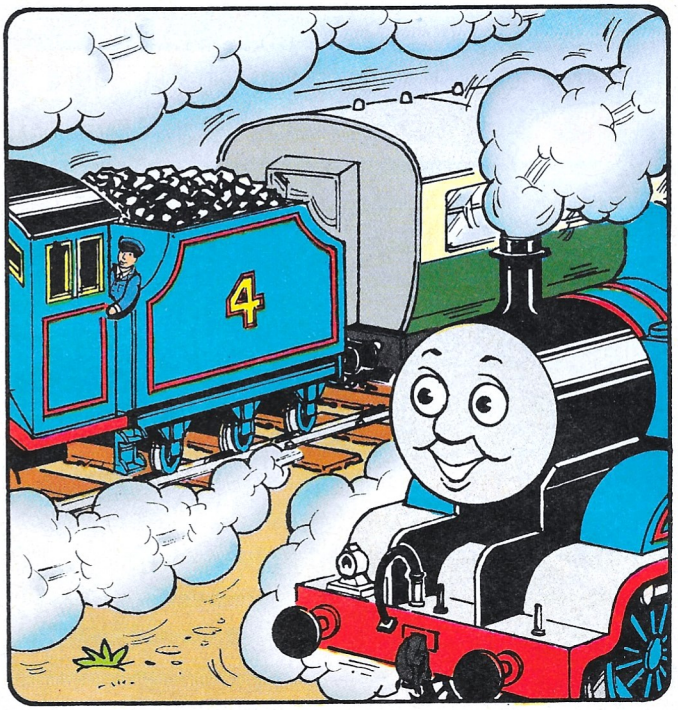


1. One fine morning in the Main Station Yard Thomas was fetching Gordon's coaches. "Hurry! I'm waiting!" snorted Gordon impatiently.

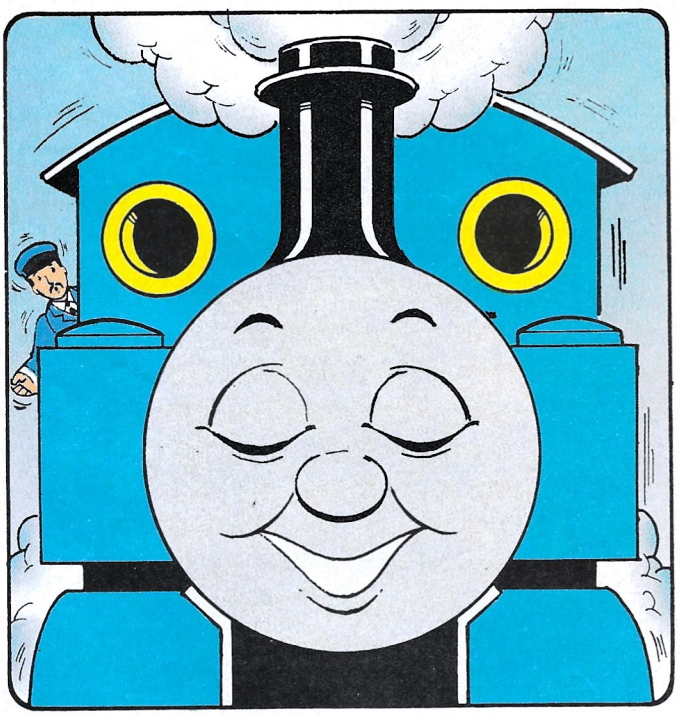
2. "I'm the most important engine because I pull the Express!" added Gordon boastfully before steaming away. Gordon was the strongest and fastest engine of them all.



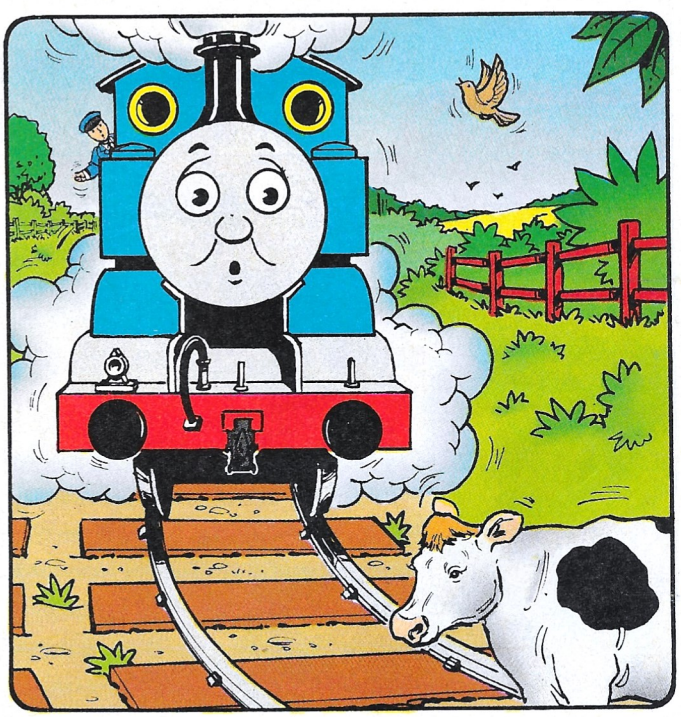
3. "Cheek!" hissed Percy, who had overheard. "Gordon is getting too big for his buffers!" "Perhaps, but I must admit, he does look splendid!" said Thomas.



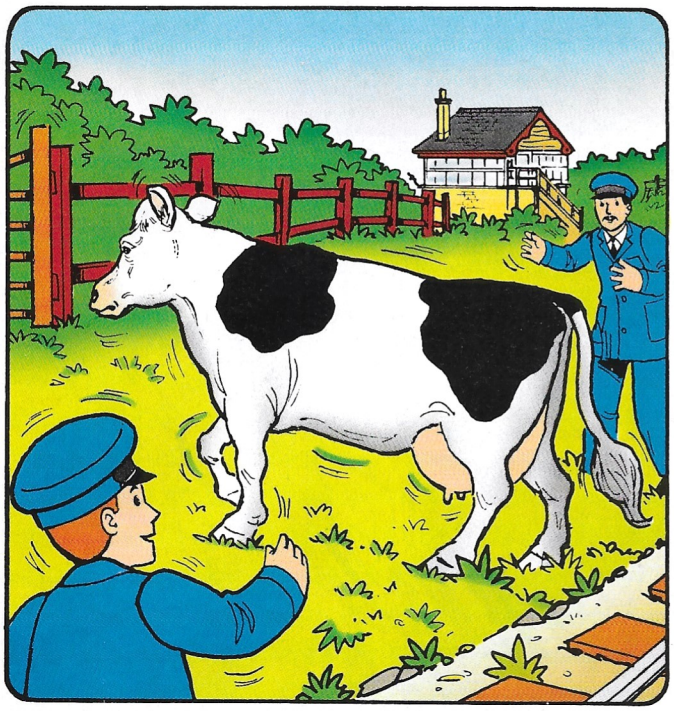
4. He began to day-dream. "It must feel grand to be a passenger," said Thomas, "with a fine engine like Gordon to pull you easily along while you relax!"



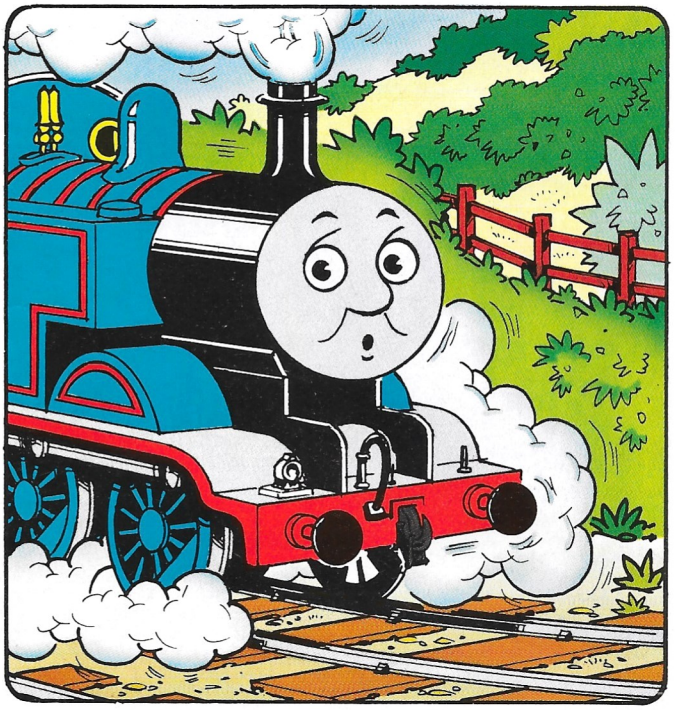
5. Thomas closed his eyes and imagined how smooth and comfortable it would be. "Wake up Thomas!" called his driver. "We've got coal trucks to move!"



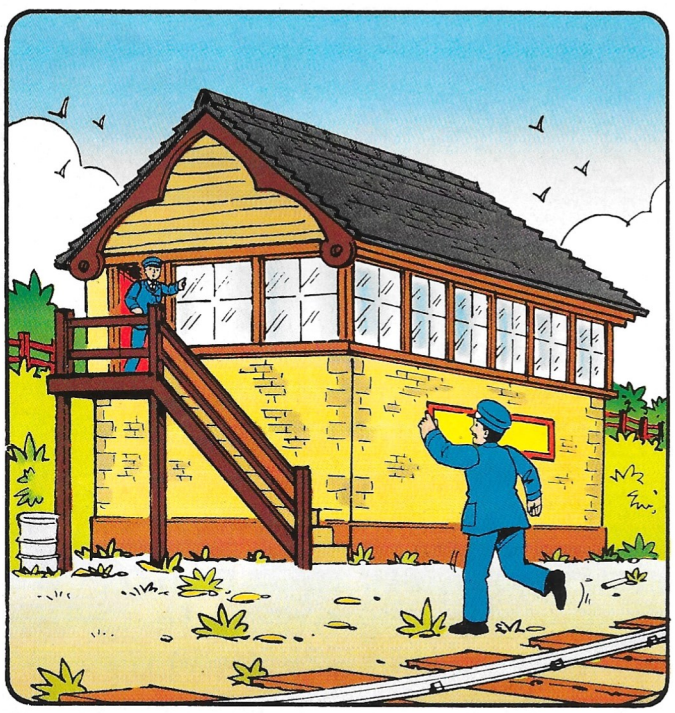
6. "Pah! So much for me enjoying the ride!" laughed Thomas. Later, as he set off for the Big Harbour to fetch more trucks, Thomas saw a cow on the line.



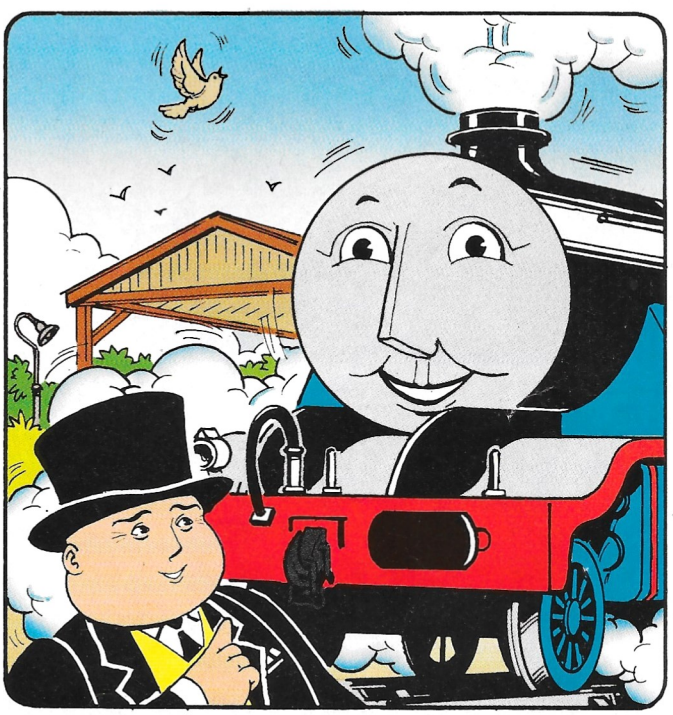
7. "Oh, look out!" shouted Thomas, pulling up sharply. He waited while his driver and fireman herded the cow safely back into its field and shut the gate.



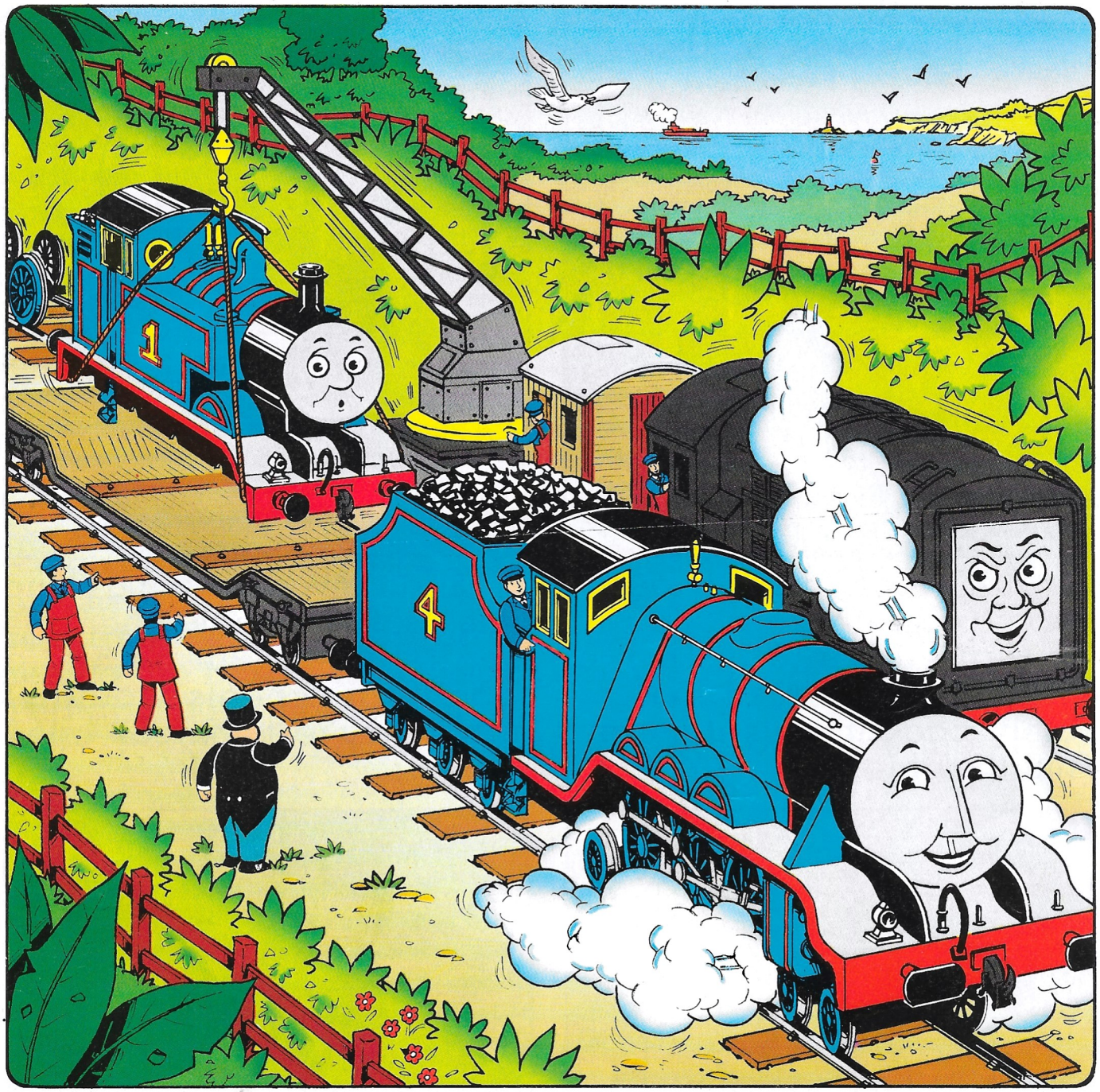
8. "I'll do my best to make up time!" said Thomas when the men returned. But he had a shock. His wheels wouldn't turn! "They're jammed!" cried Thomas.



9. A signal-box was nearby so his driver ran and told the signalman. "I'll phone the Fat Controller!" the signalman said. Soon, everything was arranged.



10. Luckily, Gordon had already returned to the Main Station yard. "Thank goodness! I need a strong engine to rescue Thomas!" said the Fat Controller.



11. He climbed aboard Gordon who raced on his way, pulling a special wagon. The Fat Controller also sent for Diesel and a crane. When they arrived, Thomas was lifted clean off his own wheels by the crane then put gently down on the wagon. "Gordon will take you to the Works!" said the Fat Controller.

12. Henry followed shortly with Thomas's wheels on a wagon. As Gordon puffed along, Thomas enjoyed his ride. Next morning, he was back on his own wheels again. "Now I know what it's like to be a passenger!" said Thomas happily as he shunted Gordon's coaches ready for the Express.

In our next issue: Sleepy engine!

THE END.